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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The entire Yugoslav import system has once again been completely centralized under the Ministry of Foreign Commerce in Belgrade. The Ministries of Import and Export of the Yugoslav Peoples Republics are no longer empowered to handle the foreign credits which they built up through individual import-export transactions in the past. All Yugoslav foreign credits and purchasing mediums now are the exclusive responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Commerce in Belgrade.
2. The primary reason given for this centralization is that the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Communist Party came to a decision that, henceforth, all foreign credits would be used for the purchase of weapons and military needs and that this would have to be carried out by the Federated Republic's Ministry of Foreign Commerce. In special cases, the Belgrade Ministry of Foreign Commerce will authorize the individual republics to negotiate directly with foreign firms for certain non-military needs which cannot be obtained in Yugoslavia. This does not imply that any blanket authorization will be given, but rather that the Ministry must pass on each separate request for foreign purchases by a Republic.
3. On the basis of a decision made by the Central Committee of the Party, the export of materials from Yugoslavia will also be centralized under the Ministry of Foreign Commerce in Belgrade, but this change will be implemented gradually.
4. Representatives of the Ministries of Export and Import of each of the Republics meet once a month in Belgrade in the Ministry of Foreign Commerce. At these meetings, the representatives submit to the Ministry of Foreign Commerce export plans for their respective Republics which they had worked out in detail from the program previously received from the Ministry in rough form. Armed with these detailed plans, the Federal Ministry then designates which Republic will export, and specifies the goods and markets. The selection of the markets is usually decided on the basis of the foreign credits held in a country in which Yugoslavia desires to make purchases.
5. When a Republic has surplus material which is not needed at the time by the Federal Ministry, either for internal needs or export bargaining, it is usually released to the Republic to dispose of at will. Such

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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export plans are submitted to the President of the Federal Planning Commission, who has the right to make revisions. His decisions are final. It is presumed that both the Federal Ministry of Foreign Commerce and the President of the Federal Planning Commission seek the advice of representatives of the Central Republic's major firms and industries.

6. The Government's centralization of imports and its plans to commence centralizing all exports have created dissatisfaction in the Federated Republics, which now consider their Ministries of Import and Export as useless organizations.*
7. On 31 January 1951, the foreign exchange cash stores which were set up throughout most of Yugoslavia will be closed for good.**

 Comment: Centralization of exports and imports in this report refers to goods which normally come under the jurisdiction of the Federated Republics, and does not refer to those materials which are and have been under the direct supervision of the Central Government.

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